

## TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to emphasize the need to revitalize the telecommunications industry. In February, the FCC voted by a three to two margin to allow state regulators to decide how much competitors should pay for leasing networks.

Is this fair? Should long-distance companies be allowed to piggyback on the hard work and investments of other companies? How will this ruling affect consumers? Phone companies will not have any additional incentive to invest in new networks. This ruling will stifle technological change and hurt an industry that already suffered an 11 percent decrease in capital spending last year.

When the FCC issued new regulations in mid February to promote competition, it failed miserably. It missed an opportunity to create jobs in the struggling telecommunications industry. The FCC also missed an opportunity set a national policy to promote facilities-based competition that would have encouraged investment.

As evidence of the weak policy adopted by the FCC, on that day when the FCC issued its decision, the telecommunications industry lost \$15 billion in worth. The move to shift decision-making to the States regarding Unbundled Network Elements will only create a quagmire of regulations that will not encourage investment and the creation of jobs.

The people who will suffer the most are the hardworking men and women who depend on this industry. As the Communications Workers of America state, there needs to be a Federal telecommunications policy that will boost the telecommunications industry and national economy.

The FCC missed their opportunity. I hope my colleagues in Congress will revisit this issue in the future.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

## MOTHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that Betty Ruth Lewis Horine of Warrensburg, MO, has been named "Mother of the Year" by the American Mother's Association. Mrs. Horine has demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to her family.

Betty Horine was born in Annapolis, Missouri, in 1931, to Issom and Ruth Lewis. She was a first generation college graduate, earned her Master's degree in Education and went on to teach for twenty-seven years.

Betty Horine has not only served her community as a teacher but she has volunteered in many different organizations such as teaching church school, helping with Meals-on-Wheels, assisting with the Food Chest, and leading the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H. She is also a member of the PEO, Retired

Teachers, United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Friends of the Library, and teaches in the Adult Literacy Program. Betty has also been recognized twice for her volunteer work, receiving the Missouri Association of Rural Educators Award for Top Volunteer for Missouri and second she received the Methodist Women Special Mission Recognition Award.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Horine has distinguished herself as a fine educator, community leader, and mother. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Betty Horine and her family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO GARY QUICK ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION  
INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA  
LABOR HALL OF FAME

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who is a longtime activist in labor and community service in the Upper Peninsula. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend, Gary Quick of Kipling, Michigan.

This is not the first tribute I have done for Gary, but his election to the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame is an appropriate time to once again reflect on Gary's devotion to his country, his union and his community.

Gary Quick was born in Eagle, Michigan in 1940 and soon moved with his family to Rapid River, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After graduation from Rapid River High School, he began working as a sub-assembler at the Harnischfeger Corp. plant in Escanaba.

His leadership potential surfaced quickly, and within just a few years Gary's co-workers at United Auto Workers Local 632 elected him as a steward of the Local. In 1967 he was elected Local 632 Vice President, and in 1969, he was elected Local President.

Between 1966 and 1983, Gary Quick served as a delegate to the UAW's constitutional conventions and was involved with UAW matters at the national level. He also served as a delegate for the Delta County, Michigan, Trades and Labor Council from 1975 until 1984.

In April 1984, Gary's national work with the UAW earned him an appointment as an international representative for the Region 1-D UAW office in Escanaba. In that role, he successfully negotiated union contracts in many employment settings, including health care, education, automotive and aerospace industries. He retired from the UAW in June 2002.

Gary Quick also served his country and his community. He was a United States Army Reservist from 1963 to 1969. He served on the Delta County Road Commission from 1977 to 1982, and was a member of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Advisory Board, the Labor-Management Board, and the Private Industry Council.

Mr. Speaker, Gary has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a public servant. His work for the labor movement, for his union colleagues and for his community have been an inspiration to all who worked with him in these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2003, at a ceremony in Marquette, Michigan, the Upper Pe-

ninsula Labor Hall of Fame will induct Gary Quick as a member in recognition of his many accomplishments and long years of service. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting him on this well-deserved honor.

## MEDIA DIVERSITY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for media diversity and localism. The Supreme Court has maintained that the First Amendment is designed to achieve "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources." Media ownership diversity is critical to ensuring that we protect the First Amendment. Over the years, the courts have supported the belief of Congress that independent ownership of media outlets results in more diverse media voices, greater competition, and more local content.

A free and open media is central to our democracy. It promotes civic discussion, encourages public participation in policy debates, and ensures representation of ideological, cultural and geographic diversity. I cannot overstate the importance of the FCC's review of media ownership rules in deciding whether the principles of the First Amendment will be embraced in every day reality, or only in theory. Clearly, this is the most important telecommunications issue of our time.

The FCC has announced that it will release a proposal on June 2nd to possibly eliminate or weaken rules that would have major impact on television broadcast ownership concentrations. The rule that bars NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX from merging with each other and the rule that limits one company from owning broadcast stations that reach more than 35 percent of households nationwide could disappear.

The FCC is also examining rules that apply to local markets, including the rule that limits companies in the same market from owning two or more broadcast TV stations; the rule barring an entity from owning a local newspaper and television station in the same market; the rule capping the number of radio stations that an entity is allowed to own in a market at eight; and the rule restricting a single entity from owning more than one television and radio station in the same market, unless it is proven that there is sufficient diversity in the market.

I am adamantly opposed to the FCC relaxing existing rules to allow greater media concentration. Existing rules have been put in place to ensure that local communities have access to varying viewpoints on local issues. These rules must be maintained and should be strengthened, instead of weakened. Nothing at all should be done until the public and members of Congress have a chance to evaluate and comment on any specific proposals to change the current media ownership rules. In my view, that requires ample opportunity to consider and prepare comments, as well as a sufficient number of local hearings to allow all constituencies and all parts of the Nation to voice their views.

Over the last few years, we have seen considerable ownership consolidation in the